

# THE WORKFORCE WORD

## Events in July

Job Fairs  
July - 5, 12, 19, 26

July 4 -  
Independence Day

WVEE Fundraiser

AWDA is committed to "Empowering residents to obtain meaningful employment thus, becoming self-sufficient, educated and skilled and connecting them to local businesses seeking to build an effective workforce that will support a vibrant, diverse economy for the city of Atlanta."



## More than 100 Next Step Students received laptop computers

to assist in their academic studies and career training. Next Step... "The Atlanta Promise," continues to evolve and gain momentum thanks to the efforts of Next Step staff, volunteers, and monetary donations. Department of Information Technology (DIT) staff came to AWDA's One-Stop Center to assemble and install the latest software, spy-ware, and virus protection onto the laptops. Students who requested laptops, walked into AWDA offices weeks



City of Atlanta DIT assemble Laptops at AWDA

later and received one along with carrying cases and award letters. After meeting and thanking Mayor Franklin and AWDA staff for their dedication and resources, students walked out proud owners of brand new 2005 Dell-0T7570 Laptops. Owning a laptop increases these students probability to excel academically and professionally while providing more incentive for each to better prepare for their Next Step.



AWDA Executive Director Deborah Lum, Mayor Shirley Franklin, and Atlanta Housing Authority SR. Vice-President Barney Simms present 2005 Washington High School graduate Doletha Welch her laptop computer.

## WVEE assists Mayor Franklin and AWDA in raising Funds for 2005 Next Step Students.

Jay McLaughlin of 1380 WOAK *Voice of the Community* hosted guest patrons to raise money and awareness for Mayor Franklin's Next Step... "The Atlanta Promise" in Atlanta's Mall West End. V-103 DJ's Magic Man, Ryan Cameron, and Greg Street also hosted a remote Downtown Atlanta at Woodruff Park. Mayor Franklin was onsite at both locations announcing and promoting the Next Step program on the Atlanta Airways. Local businesses and patrons in the area stopped by both locations to voice and show their support through monetary donations. Next Step students and parents also came by to sincerely thank all of those involved with the



Ryan Cameron, Mayor Franklin, 2005 Benjamin E. Mays graduate Kristin Wintersmith, Elle Duncan, and Greg Street.



AWDA Staff and V-103's Ryan Cameron

program, while also speaking on the program's significance to Atlanta's youth.. "It's all worth it to see these kids get these types of opportunities, I wish we had something like this when I was in high school," remarked AWDA's Keith Gulley. At the end of the day's events Mayor Franklin, AWDA staff, and WVEE were successful in raising over \$5000.



Marcus Stanley, Stacy Stewart-Moore, Alesia Brown, Bess Garrett, and Dion Stanford at an AWDA job fair.

## Job Fair Attendance increases as Department of Labor (DOL) specialists

have begun assisting with the Tuesday morning events at AWDA's One-Stop Center. AWDA has hosted more interested and prospective job applicants than ever before. "It's interesting that many of those present are first time customers and new to the entire job fair concept and process," stated Patricia Hutchinson. The agency recorded more than 650 visitors in one morning alone, and have averaged more than 450 visitors compared to 250 in the previous month. The support of DOL has definitely allowed for the Job Fairs to remain manageable even with the tremendous outpour and increased visitations from the public. However, as the number of qualified and experienced applicants has increased, so has the interest by local private and public employers. Atlanta firms are interviewing and hiring applicants "On the Spot," creating a buzz both for potential employers and applicants that's astonishing.



## Welterweight Boxer Vernon Forrest gives Next Step student Chris Couch a fighting chance...

These days, national and local celebrities are involved in Mayor Franklin's Next Step Program. "After hearing and reading about this tremendous program, How could you not Help? To know that I can personally help a young African-American male attend college, that's real."

Pro Welterweight Boxer Vernon Forrest took time away from his rigorous training and exercise schedule to meet, speak, and sponsor 2005 Washington High School graduate Chris Couch. Chris found out about Next Step in April and pursued the program with hopes it would assist him in applying and attending Shorter College in Rome, Georgia. An excellent student and all around athlete at Washington, Chris was indeed accepted into Shorter, but had no definite means of covering the School's costs. However, because of Mayor Franklin's Next Step... "The Atlanta Promise," specifically the gift from Forrest, Chris had the necessary financial assistance he required to attend Shorter College this fall. Forrest's donation helped pay for Chris's tuition, books, registration costs, and other fees,



while further allowing Chris to pursue his plans for walking onto the school's Varsity Football team. Chris is now able to prepare on his upcoming academic semester and train that much more having conquered the stress and uncertainty associated with school fees. He definitely has a bright future and will undoubtedly become one of Shorter College's premier and feature academic athletes. Vernon Forrest will be fighting ... Friday, October 21, 2005 on Fox Sports as a Welterweight and will also be featured on the Best Damn Sports Show Wednesday October 19, 2005. Chris, Shorter College, Mayor Franklin, and Atlanta Workforce Development Agency would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to Vernon Forrest for his generosity. As one of the foremost private citizens and Atlanta native to contribute, we know his gift will inspire other Famous Athletes and Entertainers to do the same.



## Walmart donates \$50,000 to Mayor Franklin's Next Step... "The Atlanta Promise."

Mayor Franklin, AWDA Executive Director Deborah Lum, and local 2005 Graduating Seniors from Atlanta Public Schools accepted a check of \$50,000 at AWDA's One-Stop Center on the morning of August 16, 2005. Walmart sent local Managers and Area Representatives to offer the contribution that will support the inaugural Next Step class of 2005. This brings the grand total to more than \$1.7 Million Dollars that Mayor Franklin has managed to raise in only a few weeks time. With the assistance of Phillipa Brown, Gabrielle Allmon, Carolyn Frisby, Virlyn Ellis, and Deborah Lum, Mayor Franklin has fulfilled her promise to personally assist all of those students who wanted and needed assistance following graduation from high school. "The opportunity to assist Mayor Franklin in 'bridging the gap' between students and their goals has been a rewarding experience. It's truly satisfying to know and see a positive impact in the futures of Atlanta's youth," remarked Co-Director of the Next Step program Gabrielle Allmon

## Keep on Truckin...

Mr. John Tarver of Trans Am Trucking came by AWDA offices to share his good fortune with his Career Advisor, Thomasene Blount Roberts and AWDA Job Developer, Linda Wunch. Once homeless and jobless, Mr. Tarver benefited from a training program at AWDA by securing his CDL license in the Spring of 2004. Through diligence, personal determination, and the enthusiasm and support from AWDA staff and his family, Mr. Tarver achieved his goal of becoming a certified Truck Driver. Recognizing the work and support others confirmed in their attempts to assist him, John Tarver is doing his part to demonstrate his gratitude and delight in having secure and fulfilling employment. In addition to his Nationwide Truck Driving duties, Mr. Tarver also works as a trainer, recruiter, and spokesperson for both his and other affiliated trucking firms. He aspires to recruit others to the lifestyle and career in which he has found satisfaction and success. It's certain that the genuine sentiment of AWDA staff is rubbing off on our clients.







**Graduates from Atlanta Technical College and Atlanta Workforce Development Agency's Summer Youth Training Programs** were recently honored. August 3rd was a night of excitement for all of the students, parents, and AWDA staff who participated in the Agency's Annual Technical Training Summer Program. The students were educated and certified at Atlanta Technical College within the fields of medicine and plumbing as Certified Nursing Assistants, Pharmacy Technicians, Patient Care Technicians, and Plumbing Apprentices. With their extensive preparation and ensuing examinations many students will pursue these disciplines as

professional careers. Those students who successfully completed their coursework and evaluations participated in a graduation ceremony honoring their accomplishments. Mayor Franklin, AWDA Executive Director Deborah Lum, CVS Manager of Workforce Development and AWDA Board Member Mike Romesburg, and AWDA Summer Program Leads Pat Koch and Sherron Reese presented each student with a certificate recognizing and highlighting their completion and graduation from the summer course.



## Events in August

Job Fairs -  
2, 9, 16, 23, 30

August 3 -  
Atlanta Technical College  
Graduation Exercises

August 16 -  
Walmart \$50,000  
Check Presentation

August 17 -  
Board Meeting

## **Atlanta Workforce Development Agency Ballers show up and show out...**

The AWDA *Ballers*, this Agency's first softball team finished 3rd in their inaugural season in the City of Atlanta Interdepartmental Softball League. With a record of 5 – 3, the *Ballers* proved that they're not only here to stay, but to contend bringing fierce competition to all of their opponents. Team MVP, Dion Stanford proved this every time he stepped up to bat remaining the team's lead-off batter and setting the tone for most of the games. "That man turned a bunt single into a homerun," remarked pitcher Dewey McClain recalling Stanford's exploits on the field. Season and game balls were presented to Ms. Lum for leading the team as Capt, Mr. Jerry Rucker for attending all of the season games, and Mrs. Mary Lum for being present at all practices and games. The *Ballers* would like to extend additional thanks to all of the fans and family members who came out to support the team, "We couldn't have done it without you!"

### **Infield:**

**Dewey McClain  
Danny Bryant  
Ms. Lum  
Sherron Reese  
Gabrielle Allmon  
Ralph Dickerson  
Michelle Dorsey  
Sean Jones**

### **Outfield:**

**Patricia Hutchinson  
Roberta Morris  
Kevin Ware  
Jonell Myers  
Wymon Henderson  
Jae Scarborough  
Julia Bond  
Dion Stanford**



## **The Origin of Independence Day!!!**



By the middle of the 1700s, the 13 colonies that made up part of Great Britain's empire in the New World were finding it difficult to be ruled by a monarchy more thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean. Weary of taxation without representation, colonial leaders formed the Continental Congress, drew up a list of grievances against the crown that would formally separate the colonies from England. These grievances were revised and made public when John Hancock, the president of the Second Continental Congress became the first to sign "The Declaration of Independence." Independence Day is celebrated on July 4 because that is the day when the Continental Congress adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence. George Washington took command of the Continental Army and began fighting the British. From July 8, 1776, until the next month, the document was read publicly and people celebrated whenever they heard it. The next year, in Philadelphia, bells rang and ships fired guns, candles and firecrackers were lighted. But the War of Independence dragged on until 1783. In 1783 and again in 1941 by the US Congress, the 4th of July was declared a federal holiday, and since Americans have celebrated our Freedom and Democracy.



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